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Tourism Industry to recognize outstanding tourism people!

Up to 2010 the recognition for outstanding service was limited to the members of AHATA and her associates. However, upon the suggestion of the Minister of Tourism to expand this recognition to include other categories of persons, as of 2011 many others have been included.

The Shoco Awards is Aruba's annual recognition of persons who have excelled in the tourism industry during the year.

In view of the importance that this recognition has in stimulating those who work in the all important tourism



industry, they have amplified the categories to include all who demonstrate extra exemplary service in the industry. The existing categories are: employee of the year, supervisor of the year, manager of the year, young tourism professional of the year, lifetime achievement award, and humanitarian award. The additional categories now are: Tour guide of the year and One Happy Island Ambassador.

A total of 44 persons have been nominated in the different categories. The judges will have a difficult time deciding who will be the winners. Every one of the nominees are persons who have demonstrated great passion for their work and exceptional dedication to the industry, and are committed to excellent service to the vis-

itors of Aruba.

Each nominee has been interviewed, videotaped in their work area, and have submitted documentation of their preparation. The judges have now decided who the winners are. On Friday the 9th of December the island will know who excelled during 2011. These winners will receive the prestigious Shoco Award during an impressive ceremony.

Indian party candidate wins presidency in Guyana

GEORGETOWN (AFP) - Donald Ramotar, the candidate from Guyana's People's Progressive Party-Civic, which has led the former British colony since 1992, has won the presidency, electoral authorities said Thursday.

Ramotar, 61, whose party represents the country's Indian majority, had been expected to succeed outgoing President Bharrat Jagdeo, who is limited to two terms. He becomes Guyana's sixth head of state and government.

The PPPC however failed to win a majority in the 65-seat national assembly, obtaining 32 seats with 48.6 percent of the popular vote in Monday's election.

'Let's finish the fight' against AIDS, says Obama



US President Barack Obama speaks during a World AIDS Day event at the Jack Morton Auditorium on the campus of George Washington University in Washington, DC.

WASHINGTON (AFP) - US President Barack Obama on Thursday added \$50 million to fight AIDS in the United States and launched efforts to treat two million more people abroad.

"We can beat this disease," Obama said at an event to mark World AIDS Day which included speeches by satellite

from former presidents Bill Clinton and George W. Bush and appearances by U2 singer Bono and pop-soul singer Alicia Keys.

"We have saved so many lives, let's finish the fight."

About 1.2 million Americans are among the 34 million people worldwide who were living with HIV/AIDS in 2010, a year when 1.8 million people died, down from a peak of 2.2 million five years earlier.

Despite many advances in treatment and survival since the epidemic first surfaced 30 years ago, a UN report said this week that funding dropped to \$15 billion globally last year, down from \$15.9 billion in 2009.

Experts say that is well short of the \$24 billion needed by 2015 to mount an effective global response.

Obama also appealed to global partners, including China, to step up their efforts to end AIDS.

"Here's my message to everyone out there. To the global community -- join us," he said.

"Countries that have committed to the Global Fund need to give the money that they promised. Countries that haven't made a pledge, they need to do so. That includes countries that in the past might have been recipients but now are in a position to step up as major donors.

"China and other major economies are in a position now to transition in a way that can help more people."

"World AIDS Day is a day to celebrate success," Bush said. "There is nothing more effective than PEPFAR," or the President's Emergency Plan for AIDS Relief, he added, calling the number of lives saved by the program "staggering."

Antiretroviral drugs are credited with saving 700,000 lives around the world last year alone.

Treatment with antiretroviral drugs has been shown to suppress levels of the virus in 77 percent of people who follow the regimen, and it can cut the risk of transmission to a partner by 96 percent, studies have shown.

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Informative and Thoughtful Harold D. Malmberg's notes from the PFTSA Seminar



During the recent PFTSA seminar Harold Malmberg, President and Chairman of the Board of De Palm Tours addressed the forum, congregating for an informative afternoon at the Holiday Inn Sunspree. Malmberg, one of the island's visionary pioneers and entrepreneurs commented on the Mandatory Pension law which will be coming into effect on January 1st, 2012, and will enforce saving for old age with the participation of the employee

and the employer.

Malmberg began his discourse informing his audience as to the reasons why his company became a founder of the Aruba Hotel and Tourism Association Pension Fund. It all started, he explained, with a very close relative, who left Lago Oil & Transport Company after 25 years of service, with a pension of US\$ 58.00 per month.

Shortly thereafter, the closing of the refinery in

1985 followed a result of which De Palm Tours started receiving job applications from among the laid-off workers. What particularly drew Malmberg's attention was the fact that many job-seekers were either close to, or older than 60. Many had worked for the refinery for more than 30 years. But they all reported they could not survive on their pension averaging 100 florin per month and that the AOV allowance sponsored by the government was not enough either. When asked if they had saved anything during their 30 years of employment, very few answered positively.

The realization that there was a real need for a pension fund, inspired the Malmberg family, as they felt a moral obligation to take an initiative and assist employees with saving for old age. After Lago's departure tourism became the only economic pillar, until the consequent reopening of the refinery under new ownership. As tourism development accelerated and more hotels were built in a short period of time, Rory Arends, then at the head of AHATA, and Anselmo Pontilius, also found the establishment of a Pension Fund important. The core founding team recruited more believers, with other AHATA Board Members such as Willy Cramer and Ed Malone, coming on board.

It gives me great pleasure, says Malmberg to see how

successful the fund is, among the first in the Caribbean, and our tourism industry voluntarily embraced it and made it work.

Needless to say, at De Palm Tours, some young employees voiced objections to saving, which had to be overcome. Younger workers did not see a need for a Pension Fund and refused to look down the road, ahead into the future. Some even claimed that they would die young and others just nipped the idea of saving in the bud. Thus the only solution was to make it mandatory for all employees, force workers of all ages to join the fund when entering De Palm Tour's service.

Older employees also voiced objections. They told the company that they were too old and did not have enough time available to accumulate a reasonable amount of money to carry them through old age, so most of them refused to join. Others claimed that they had saved on their own for their retirement and did not need to join the fund. As the company asked for proof of savings, it caused unfortunate

arguments. Eventually, workers at De Palm Tours agreed on an age that would absolve mandatory membership, and those older than that age were released from joining the fund. The younger ones fell under the mandatory rule.

Meanwhile as time went by, Malmberg explains, several of De Palm Tours employees already reached the age of pension and are collecting theirs, which in conjunction with AOV gives them a reasonable income.

The company also has older employees who are now on pension, who never joined the plan, because of their high age. Those were kept on the payroll for the rest of their lives as company-sponsored "pensionados". Most of them have worked for De Palm Tours for 30+ years and have been through good and bad times. The company is very proud of their achievement, and is holding on to them, Malmberg stated.

In closing his address at the pension fund seminar Malmberg reiterated: "I am in full support of the law, because it is morally the right thing to do!"



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Vacations Are Special



Laura, Jeremy and baby Leah are making their return vacation at the Marriott Surf Club count every day. They came down to celebrate Thanksgiving,



and think about with anticipation the Christmas holiday time which they will



spend back home with the rest of the families. These are priceless memories to cherish, appreciate and love.

Photos of the happy family by Diane Keijzer.

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Philippines adds Chinese New Year to holidays

MANILA (AFP) - Philippine President Benigno Aquino Thursday declared Chinese New Year an official holiday, ignoring the objections of some in the business community who say there are already too many public holidays.

It means the Chinese New Year, also known as the spring festival or lunar new year, will be celebrated annually from January 23, 2012.

The Chinese New Year becomes one of 17 holidays that will be recognised by the Philippines in 2012 including Christian holidays such as Christmas and Easter and Muslim holidays Eid al-Adha and Eid al-Fitr.

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IT'S HERE, THE NEW H2OASIS ADULTS - ONLY POOL Now Guests of the Aruba Marriott Resort Have Access To Exclusive Adult Pool



Kate Wilson the first guest to experience the H2Oasis

The Aruba Marriott Resort unveiled its newest amenity, the H2Oasis adults - only pool and lounge on November 21, 2011. The construction of this 10,000 square foot pool and lounge area began in June of this year and upon its completion, is the final zone of the resort's \$50 million dollar renovation.

H2Oasis is an area of the hotel that is reserved for mature guests staying at the Aruba Marriott Resort and the boutique Tradewinds Club. While the resort still offers a great experience to guests of all generations, in-

cluding families and children, with the free-form pool and all other areas that aren't zoned for adults.

"We are very excited to open the pool and lounge area for our guests to experience," said Recreation Manager Gabriel Guevara, "The pool has only been open a few days and we have already received positive feedback. A few of our guests described their experience as tranquil and relaxing."

"This is my second time staying at the Aruba Marriott and I am happy to see the new adult pool opening today. The cabanas and chairs are chic and comfortable - plus the pool looks amazing,"

said Kate Wilson, the first guest to experience the H2Oasis.

Aruba Marriott Resort & Stellaris Casino boasts 411 guestrooms each with private balconies overlooking cascading waterfalls, a free form swimming pool and tranquil Caribbean waters. Guest exclusivity is attainable on the eighth floor through the Tradewinds Club, a boutique, 'hotel-within-a-hotel' concept that is paired perfectly with the new adults-only pool and lounge area. On property dining options range from light to elegant with seven restaurants and cafes, while entertainment and relaxation can be achieved in the is-



Mr. & Mrs. Thompson at the new H2Oasis pool with Recreation Manager Gabriel Guevara

land's largest casino, or in the 6,500 square-foot spa.

To obtain more information call the Aruba Marriott

Resort & Stellaris Casino at 1.800.228.9290 or visit www.arubamarriott.com or www.tradewindsclubaruba.com.

Congratulations Dennis and Fabian!



Every night of entertainment at Zissles is amazing but the day before yesterday was even more special. Starting with the new spectacular show MIRAGE at 7.30 pm like every Monday, Wednesday and Friday and celebrating the birthday of 2 employees afterwards. At the 28th of November waiter Fabian Ruurda became 25 years old. The manager Dennis Jacobs had to wait a little longer and became 32 years old on the 29th of November. At midnight the birthday pie was brought in with great spectacle: Happy Birthday singing by musical star Jasper Taconis, acrobatics by the show performers and a lot of noise by their other colleagues. This great entrance

compensated the size of the pie.

Also want to have a wonderful time, visit MIRAGE at Zissles. A spectacular show by incredible acrobats and dancers, combined with two amazing singers and musical star Jasper Taconis. Get the Cirque du Soleil feeling, every block has its own exotic features such as fire-acts, tissue-acts, Caribbean carnival, Latin dancing and more! They even have their own Tarzan who swings through the venue. Can't wait to see? Tonight is your first opportunity to go, Zissles opens at 7 pm. Otherwise you'll be able to go on Friday or Monday. Call +297 586 3800 for reservations.

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Centro di Sonrisa ready to save on water and electricity



In the context of their "Hunto Nos ta Spaar" (together we can save) project, WEB N.V. has provided advise and different products to save water and electricity to SONRISA. SONRISA is a special care center for children and adults with physical or mental limitations. The savings project is a combined effort between WEB, Unicon and ELMAR.

Yesterday they officially

completed the project in the presence of Mr. Thomas Tromp, Director of Sonrisa and representatives of the Hunto Nos Ta Spaar" team.

Since 2009 this project has been stimulating organizations to reduce their use of water and electricity. So doing, they have already assisted, among others, SABA, Kongin Wilhelmina Kankerfonds and FAVI.

At SONRISA they began with an inventory of all the locales in the center to ascertain where their consumption of water and electricity was highest. This was followed by a check on faucets, types of light fixtures, type of air conditioners and toilets. They also investigated if each locale was properly sealed for optimum cooling by air conditioners.



During their inventory they encountered toilets that were in poor condition, rooms with air conditioners and windows that did not close well. The team of WEB, ELMAR and Unicon provided expert advice on how they could improve efficiency in the use of water and electricity.

The next step was to install new products, such as inverter air conditioners of 18000BTU in the offices and 12000BTU air conditioners in two classrooms. They also

changed the toilet tanks and light bulbs as well as faucets in the kitchen and bathroom.

The "Hunto Nos Ta Spaar" team is satisfied with the Project and is convinced that they have contributed to helping the Center to be more efficient in their use of water and electricity. SONRISA expressed their gratitude to all the sponsors and especially to UNICON who provided the products at no cost to the Center. They also had praise for the excellent work done by WEB and ELMAR.

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TUESDAY AND FRIDAY: LIVE MUSIC

New WikiLeaks 'spy files' show global surveillance industry

LONDON (AFP) - WikiLeaks founder Julian Assange launched the website's new project Thursday, the publication of files it claims shows a global industry that gives dictatorships tools to spy on their citizens.

In parallel to Assange's announcement, Wikileaks' partner Owni.fr released evidence that a French firm helped Moamer Kadhafi's former Libyan regime spy on opposition figures living in exile in Britain.

It had already been revealed that the electronics firm, Amesys, had worked with the Libyan regime -- and

French rights groups are attempting to take the group to court -- but Owni's files will prove embarrassing.

They appear to show that a manual provided to Libya to operate a "massive Internet surveillance" set-up known as the Eagle system included the email addresses and pseudonyms of opposition leaders.

One of them, 74-year-old writer Mahmud Al-Naku, campaigned against Kadhafi in exile and has now been named his country's ambassador to London by the victorious new former rebel government.

Another figure on the surveillance list was Atia Lawgali, 60, who has since been named Libya's new minister of culture. Several more Libyan and western figures are on the list, contained in a leaked screenshot.

Kadhafi's regime has been accused of sending agents to harass and even kill opposition figures in exile.

Owni also published the user manual provided to the Libyans to operate their Internet spying system, which it boasts can intercept emails and webmail, VOIP calls, instant messages and search engine requests.

Contacted by AFP, Amesys said that Libya had been under no trade embargo after 2003, and that a number of French and international companies had done business with Kadhafi's government. The Wikileaks files reveal the activities of about 160 companies in 25 countries which develop technologies to allow the tracking and monitoring of individuals by their mobile phones, email and Internet browsing histories.

"Today we release over 287 files documenting the reality of the international mass surveillance industry -- an industry which now sells equipment to dictators and democracies alike in order to intercept entire populations," Assange told reporters in London.

Assange has been in Britain for the past year fighting extradition to Sweden for questioning on allegations of rape and sexual assault, living under tight bail conditions. His case is due to come up again on Monday.

The documents on the website, <http://wikileaks.org/the-spy-files.html>, include manuals for surveillance products sold to repressive Arab regimes.

Germany says no evidence of Iranian threat to US targets

KARLSRUHE (AFP) - Investigations yielded no evidence to back up claims that Iran was planning to attack American targets on German soil, the federal prosecution service said Thursday.

"There is the beginning of a suspicion of an espionage activity for the purposes of sabotage. There were investigations which failed to support this suspicion," a prosecution spokesman told AFP.

Mass circulation daily Bild earlier reported that Tehran had drawn up plans to attack US forces in Germany to disrupt logistics and supply lines in the event of US military action against Tehran.

The head of the federal prosecutors' office, Harald Range, confirmed an investigation had been launched and officers conducted a house search in early November.

The head of the federal crime office, Joerg Ziercke, added: "We do not see any immediate danger right now."

Bild said a probe had been launched against a German businessman with close links to the Iranian embassy in Berlin on "suspicion of acting as a foreign agent with the intention of sabotage".

A US European Command spokesman said all threats to American interests on German soil were taken "very seriously".

Slovenia rules against Catholic Church in child abuse case

LJUBLJANA (AFP) - A Slovenian court has ruled against a Catholic priest and for the first time ordered the Church to pay 50,000 euros in compensation to a woman who was abused when she was seven, Slovenian media reported Thursday.

The Maribor district court ruled that the city's archdiocese, the Celje diocese and the Artice parish must compensate the abuse victim, rather than the priest, who died in 2007, news webpage 24ur reported quoting the victim's lawyer Roc Ceferin.

"This verdict sets a precedent for children who were

abused. This will encourage other victims to demand justice and also force the Church to change its attitude," Ceferin told 24ur.

The case against the priest was launched in 2006 over 16 counts of sexual assault committed against four girls during confessions or theology classes.

The woman, who was abused 20 years ago when she was seven, launched the civil lawsuit against the priest demanding 140,000 euros in compensation for psychological trauma and serious consequences to her health.



VENEZUELA, Caracas : Handout picture released by the Venezuelan presidential press office showing Venezuelan President Hugo Chavez (L) giving to his Argentinean counterpart Cristina Kirchner (R) a painting made by himself, representing Cristina Kirchner's late husband, former Argentinean president Nestor Kirchner, with him, at Miraflores presidential palace, in Caracas, on December 1, 2011. Kirchner is in Venezuela for a one-day official visit, before attending the Commonwealth of Latin American and Caribbean States (CELAC) summit to be held in Caracas. AFP PHOTO

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International News

EU beefs up Iran sanctions, eyes oil and finance in 2012

BRUSSELS (AFP) - The European Union, piling pressure on Iran after an attack on the British embassy, beefed up sanctions Thursday over Tehran's nuclear programme and threatened to hit its oil and finances next.

Expressing "deepening concerns" on the nature of Iran's nuclear activities, EU foreign ministers meeting in Brussels slapped sanctions on an extra 143 firms and 37 individuals.

The measures follow the publication last month of a report on Iran's nuclear sector by the International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA).

With some European nations demanding even harsher action, a statement from the ministers threatened to "extend the scope" of punitive action to strike at Tehran's economic heart.

It said the EU would ex-

amine measures targeting the financial system, energy and transport by late January.

"The EU made very clear that it will not bow to Iran's intimidation and bullying tactics," said British Foreign Secretary William Hague.

"We will not back down," he added, as French Foreign Minister Alain Juppe said the EU was eyeing "unprecedented" new measures.

The White House welcomed the EU sanctions, saying "these steps signal once again the resolve of the international community to address ... the continued failure of the Iranian regime to meet its international obligations".

The crisis-hit EU is deeply split over slapping an oil embargo on Iran as well as calls by some, including Britain, to place an assets freeze on its central bank.

In Washington, US offi-

cials concerned about a possible fallout from sanctions gave only cautious backing for "appropriately timed" measures against the Central Bank of Iran.

While Britain, France, Germany and Sweden favour barring oil purchases from Iran, several EU countries are major buyers and "Greece has expressed some reservations", Juppe said.

Spain, Europe's top importer of Iranian crude, said postponing a decision by several weeks was appropriate. "Spain will be able to seek alternatives," said Foreign Minister Trinidad Jimenez.

Oil from Iran in 2010 amounted to 5.8 percent of total EU imports, making Tehran the bloc's fifth-largest supplier after Russia, Norway, Libya and Saudi Arabia.

Spain represents 14.6 percent of Iranian oil imports to Europe, Greece 14.0 and Italy 13.1 percent.

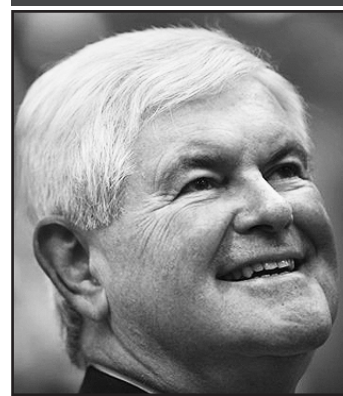
A Spanish diplomatic source said the foreign ministry has delayed the departure of its new ambassador to Tehran amid consultations on the Iranian situation.

German Foreign Minister Guido Westerwelle said Iran faces a choice "between serious (nuclear) cooperation and international isolation."

Much of the international community fears Iran's nuclear programme masks a drive for a weapons capability, though Tehran insists it serves peaceful civilian energy and medical purposes only.

Before the new sanctions, the EU had already frozen the assets of 290 Iranian firms and 76 people. In July last year, it adopted measures aimed at preventing new investment, technical assistance and technology transfers, particularly those pertaining to producing and refining gas.

Gingrich gallops to huge lead over Romney: poll



WASHINGTON (AFP) - Republican White House hopeful Newt Gingrich has widened his lead over his rivals, according to a survey released Thursday showing him with more than twice the support given to Mitt Romney.

Gingrich -- the former House speaker who in recent days has surged in the polls -- received 38 percent support from respondents in a telephone survey of likely Republican primary voters conducted by the Rasmussen poll organization.

That lead is the biggest attained by any Republican presidential candidate so far in roiling pre-primary jockeying that has seen several contenders claim the frontrunner mantle, only to fall back a few weeks later.

Most surprising, however, is the huge gap separating Gingrich and Romney, who earned just 17 percent in the Rasmussen poll.

Romney, a former Massachusetts governor who consistently has been among the top Republican presidential contenders throughout the pre-primary season, had been deemed by many to be the default frontrunner.

The result confirms a Quinnipiac University survey of Republican voters that showed Gingrich pulling ahead of Romney by a commanding 49 percent versus 39 percent.

Other polls from individual US states also confirm the trend of voter support breaking decidedly in favor of the former Georgia congressman.

Gingrich's rise in the polls, thanks in part to some strong debate performances, has been meteoric: as recently as November 2, the 68-year old former lawmaker earned just 10 percent support, according to Quinnipiac.

The former congressman earned a boost at the weekend when he picked up a major newspaper endorsement in the pivotal US state of New Hampshire.

Obama offers Myanmar fresh start in relations



US Secretary of State Hillary Clinton (L) and pro-democracy opposition leader Aung San Suu Kyi pose prior to dinner at the US Chief of Mission Residence in Rangoon, Myanmar. US President Barack Obama offered Myanmar a new era in relations if it reforms and promised Suu Kyi his eternal support in letters hand-delivered by his top diplomat Thursday. (AFP Photo)



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Health & Living

HIV drives families into 'irreversible poverty': UN



BANGKOK (AFP) - Tens of thousands of HIV-affected households in Asia are facing "irreversible poverty" because of the cost of living with the disease, with women and children hardest hit, a UN report said Thursday.

Catastrophic healthcare costs and the loss of employment opportunities due to widespread discrimination mean that many HIV-positive households across the region are in "rapid socio-economic decline," the report said.

"Without intervention, many (HIV-affected families) will slip into irreversible poverty," the UN Development Programme's deputy regional director Nicolas

Rosellini said in a statement released Thursday.

He called on regional governments to do more to mitigate the socio-economic impact of the disease, which drives many families into debt traps, locking their children into a lifetime of poverty.

The extra costs faced by HIV-affected households make it harder for parents to pay for their children's education, with school dropout rates far higher for such families across the region, the report found.

The disease also "disproportionately affects women and girls" who are biologically more vulnerable to infection, have more limited access to treatment and usually take on the bulk of responsibility for caring for affected individuals, it found.

In countries like India, Indonesia and Vietnam, HIV-affected families spend up to three times more on healthcare costs than the average, according to the report, which examined some 17,000 households across Asia.

Cambodia is the only country in Asia where households' health expenditure as a percentage of their overall

consumption is not substantially higher for HIV-affected families due to the widespread government provision of antiretroviral treatment, the report said.

The UN estimates some 34 million people worldwide lived with HIV last year, while improved treatment has meant that the number of AIDS-linked deaths has steadily dropped from a peak of 2.2 million in 2005 to 1.8 million last year.

About half of those eligible for treatment are now receiving it, something that saved the lives of 700,000 people in 2010, the UN has said.

"Yet the challenge is far from over," Samlee Plianbangchang, regional director of the World Health Organisation, wrote in an opinion piece in the Bangkok Post Thursday.

"The impact on women and children is devastating. An estimated 1.3 million women aged 15 and above currently live with HIV" in Asia, he wrote, adding that the number of children living with HIV had risen 46 percent from 2001 to 2009.

The main drivers of the spread of HIV are unsafe sex and drug injection, with five countries -- Myanmar, India, Indonesia, Nepal and Thailand -- accounting for the majority of the disease burden in the region, he said.



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HIV Virus still increasing

WASHINGTON (AFP) - New cases of HIV have leveled off at about 50,000 in the United States each year, with 16,000 people dying annually of AIDS.

President Obama said a \$15 million of the new funding would go to support HIV medical clinics and \$35 million was earmarked for the state AIDS drug assistance programs.

In Europe, 27,116 new cases of HIV infections were reported last year, an increase of around four percent from 2009.

In the United States, black men who have sex with men are a particularly high-risk group, with African-American gay males accounting for 27 percent of all new infec-

tions in the United States, according to CDC data.

According to the latest UN figures, about 34 million people in the world were infected with HIV/AIDS in 2010 and 1.8 million people died, down from a peak of 2.2 million in 2005.



DESDE 5 DI SEPTEMBER 2011
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Wondenpoli	527 4200
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Poli psikiatria	527 4640
Poli cirugia	527 4225
Poli longarts	527 4310
Hunta di directiva	527 4010
Departamento di facturacion y cobranza	527 4075
Funcionario di keho	527 4444



Dr. Horacio E. Oduber **HOSPITAAL**

Pa mas informacion yama
527 4000 of subi nos website
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Chinese residents hold balloons as they take part in an AIDS awareness program to mark the World's AIDS Day in southwest China's municipality of Chongqing on December 1, 2011. The official Xinhua news agency said the number of people living with HIV, the virus that causes AIDS, is predicted to hit 780,000 by the end of 2011, but campaigners say the figure could be much higher, as HIV/AIDS sufferers have long been stigmatised in China, but increased government education has helped raise awareness.
AFP Photo

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Half of greenhouse gases 'emitted by five nations'

(AFP) - More than half of all carbon pollution released into the atmosphere comes from five countries, according to a national ranking of greenhouse gas emissions released Thursday.

The first 10 countries on the list, made available during UN climate talks in Durban, South Africa, account for two-thirds of global emissions, said the report, compiled by British-based firm Maplecroft, specialists in risk analysis.

China, the United States, India, Russia and Japan top the ranking, with Brazil, Germany, Canada, Mexico and Iran just behind.

Three of the top six nations are energy-hungry emerging giants developing their economies at breakneck speed.

China, which eclipsed the United States several years ago to head the list, produced 9,441 megatons of CO₂ equivalent (CO₂e), a measure that combines CO₂ with other heat-trapping gases such as methane and nitrous oxide.

The method of calculation used combines 2009 figures for energy consumption with estimated numbers for 2010.

The majority of the countries' emissions are carbon dioxide, thanks to massive energy demand. Renewable energy use is increasing, but remains dwarfed by fossil fuel use.

India produced 2,272.45 megatons of CO₂e, a significant portion from methane

generated by agriculture.

Brazil's output of 1,144 megatons from energy use would be significantly higher if deforestation were taken into account.

Among advanced economies, the United States - No. 1 among large nations for per capita emissions -- produced 6,539 megatons of CO₂e.

Russia, at 1,963 megatons, ranked fourth. Its emissions dropped after the collapse of the Soviet Union, but are expected to rise.

In Japan, where output was at 1,203 megatonnes of CO₂e, safety fears over nuclear power could lead to a greater reliance on fossil fuels -- and a spike in carbon emissions, Laws said.

He noted, however, that the Japanese government has announced their intention to fill the energy gap with renewable energy sources.

The index of 176 nations ranks countries based on the total annual level of greenhouse gas emissions, combining data on CO₂ emissions from energy use and non-CO₂ emissions.

Data comes from several sources, including the US Energy Information Administration and the US Environmental Protection Agency.

The 194-nation negotiations in Durban, under the UN Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC), run until December 9.

Sci-Tech

Permafrost loss worse climate peril than thought

PARIS (AFP) - The threat to climate change posed by thawing permafrost, which could release stocks of stored carbon, is greater than estimated, a group of scientists said.

By 2100, the amount of carbon released by permafrost loss could be "1.7-5.2 times larger than those reported," depending on how swiftly Earth's surface warms, they said.

In volume terms, this is about the same as the amount of greenhouse gases released today from deforestation, they said.

But the impact on climate could be 2.5 times greater, as much of the gas will be methane, which is 25 times more efficient at trapping solar heat than carbon dioxide (CO₂), they said.

Deforestation today accounts for up to 20 percent of total greenhouse-gas emissions that contribute to global warming.

The study, published in the British journal Nature, coincides with a 12-day UN conference on climate change, unfolding in Durban, South Africa.

It touches on one of the biggest sources of concern, but also a major area of uncertainty, in climate science.

Permanently iced land covers around a quarter of the land in the northern hemisphere.

In essence, it is a carbon store, holding in icy stasis the



UXBRIDGE, Canada, - Thawing permafrost.

organic remains of plants and animals that died millions of years ago.

The worry is that as temperatures rise, the soils defrost, microbes decompose the ancient carbon and release methane and CO₂ to the atmosphere.

Documented evidence suggests this is already happening in parts of the tundra and at the perimeter of ice lakes.

Release of the gas adds to the greenhouse effect, which stokes warming and thus causes more permafrost to thaw -- in other words, a vicious circle, or "positive feedback" in climate-speak, results.

In their article, 41 international scientists who work in the Permafrost Carbon Research Network said the potential stocks of stored carbon were bigger than thought.

This is because of a fresh look at how the inventory is calculated, they explained.

Until now, experts measured carbon in the top one metre (3.25 feet) of permafrost, but in some places, the deposits are many times deeper because of the freeze-thaw cycle and the way organic sediment is deposited.

"The latest estimate is that some 18.8 million square kilometers (7.25 million square miles) of northern soils hold about 1,700 billion tonnes of organic carbon," they write.

"That is about four times more than all the carbon emitted by human activity in modern times and twice as much as is present in the atmosphere now."

Only part of this carbon would be released, depending on the scenario for warming.

The team used four well-known scenarios. The lowest saw 1.5 degrees Celsius (2.7 degrees Fahrenheit) of Arctic warming by 2040 compared to the average for 1985-2004, which ramped up to 2 C (3.6 F) by 2100.



A group of Muslim students watching the sunset at Galle Face, Colombo, Sri Lanka. (Photograph courtesy Rad Danesh/National Geographic Your Shot.)

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HOW LOW CAN YOU GO?

ACROSS

1. Box top
4. Place card notation
8. Novel by Zola
12. Vain one's excess
13. Solo for Birgit Nilsson
14. Chemical substance: abbr.
15. Winter wear
17. Wild bird's perch
18. Opposition vote
19. Squeals
21. Feature of a London skyscraper
23. Figure in Islamic myth

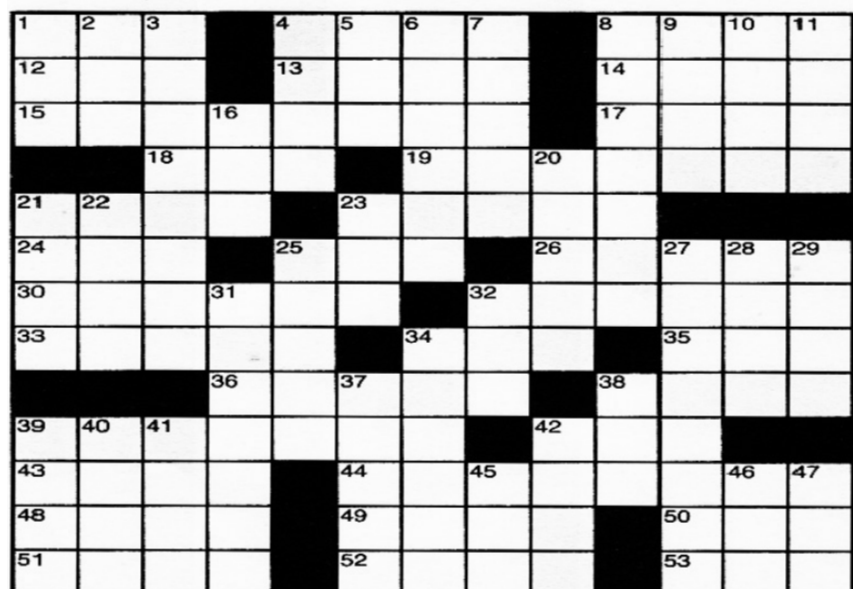
24. Rhoda's mom on "Rhoda"
25. Wee bit
26. Respectful title
30. Tennis exchange
32. In front of
33. Talk show host
34. Sib's nickname
35. Very small
36. Prominent
38. Tiny pest
39. "Take two ..."
42. English botanical gardens site
43. Courtney Love's band

44. Idle period
48. "___ for All Seasons"
49. Member of a watery quintet
50. Slangy negative
51. Curved
52. Shipshape, upstairs
53. Pre-Easter purchase

DOWN

1. Influenced
2. "___ for That"
3. Ruination
4. Sea force
5. "We ___ Not Alone"
6. Became teary
7. Devoured

8. Turn over a ___
9. Baba et al.
10. Actor Franco
11. Last word of Handel's "Messiah"
16. Hentoff or Pendleton
20. Bartenders' fruit
21. Like Dylan's "Hard Rain" album
22. Product of Hollywood
23. The ___ Nineties
25. Intent
27. Worst place to be, vis-à-vis a skunk
28. Space
29. Come upon
31. Merciful
32. Participate in a bridge game
34. Frau, in Madrid
37. ___ over (assists in difficulty)
38. Purchase
39. "Moby-Dick" captain
40. Not all
41. Architect's creation
42. Long-winded proposer's sore spot
45. Prevail
46. Flowery month
47. Lamb's mama



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Care Center
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Horacio Oduber Hospital
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POLICE HDQS
Telephone 100

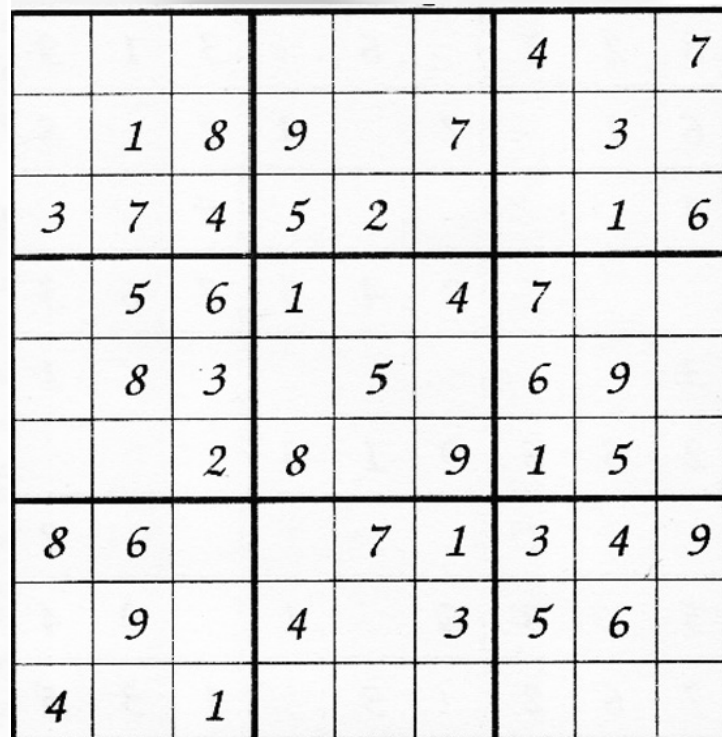
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Sudoku



SOLUTION

7	2	8	5	6	9	1	3	4
1	9	5	3	8	7	2	6	4
6	7	3	1	2	5	9	8	4
5	3	1	6	9	8	7	2	4
4	6	9	7	5	2	3	8	1
8	7	2	4	1	9	5	6	3
9	1	6	8	7	5	2	3	4
5	3	7	2	4	6	8	1	9
2	8	9	1	3	6	7	5	4

Complete the grid so that every row and every column contains the numbers 1 through 9
A number is Never repeated in a row or column.
In addition every rectangle must contain the numbers 1 through 9

Finance

Battle begins over 'refounding' of Europe

PARIS (AFP) - The European Union began a nine-day battle on Thursday over federal-style changes to save the debt-saddled eurozone, with French President Nicolas Sarkozy saying that Europe needs to be "refounded".

In a landmark address in front of 5,000 supporters, Sarkozy said he would meet his German counterpart Chancellor Angela Merkel on Monday to agree upon and announce a joint plan to take to the EU summit on December 8 and 9.

The French leader warned the developed world was entering a "new economic cycle" dominated by debt reduction, and thus of tough times ahead.

"Europe will have to make crucial choices in the weeks to come," he warned in the southern port city of Toulon, adding: "Europe is not a choice, it is a necessity, but it needs to be rethought, refounded."

Merkel is to lay down her vision of how the EU should work, and her conditions, in a speech to the Bundestag lower house of parliament on Friday.

"France is fighting with Germany for a new treaty. More discipline, more solidarity, more responsibility ... true economic government," said Sarkozy, urging members to adopt a "Golden Rule" obliging them to balance their budgets.

The stability of the eurozone economy has been rocked by a sovereign debt crisis spreading from the eurozone's highly indebted peripheral states like Greece and Ireland towards major economies such as Spain and Italy.

European leaders have struggled to convince mar-

kets that they will be able to stave off the risk of a massive default that could bring down banks, cause a global credit crunch and bring down their single currency.

Next week's Brussels summit is now seen as key to halting the crisis.

The European Central Bank and Bank of England cooled the air after shock action by central banks to shore up the global financial system boosted markets on Wednesday.

The new ECB president Mario Draghi sent a strong message that there is no magic wand, telling the European Parliament that the central bank will not act beyond rules laid down by EU treaties and that its purchasing of devalued government bonds is "temporary and limited".

The bank "should not be asked to do things that are not within the treaty", he told the European Parliament. "It would be not legal, but also a mistake because... it would undermine the credibility in the ECB," he added.

Bank of England governor Mervyn King said that joint central bank action launched on Wednesday was merely "some temporary relief to liquidity problems" and that the underlying causes had to be "tackled directly by the governments involved".

Britain is not a member of the eurozone, but as a member of the European Union and a financial centre, is highly exposed to the eurozone debt crisis, and King said the BoE had prepared a plan in case the single currency area breaks up.

Germany strongly backs the ECB line, arguing that the first condition of a solution to the debt crisis is cast-iron federal-type corsets controlling national budgets and economic reforms to release growth.

"What we need first and foremost are automatic sanctions when (budget) stability rules are broken," said German Minister Guido Westerwelle.

France however has pushed for the ECB to act as a lender of a last resort to eurozone governments to ensure that panicky markets do not push states into insolvency.

Stores are open Daily 10AM - 10PM
Sunday 5PM - 10PM
Restaurants are open for breakfast,
lunch & dinner.



The Holiday Celebration Continues!

Friday, December 2 starting at 6:00 PM

Musical Presentation by "Grupo di Betico" in front of Häagen Dazs

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Aletronic.com	Guess	Imita	Maggy's	Scala	The Minimarket
Baci da Roma	Häagen Dazs	iZone Internet Cafe	Mario Hernandez	Sparkles	Tierra Del Sol
Café Moka's	Happy Island	Kapricho	Mia Boutique	Swatch	Time square
Cariloha	Souvenirs	Kok Optica	Maute Grill	Starbucks	Tous
Converse	Happy Island	Kristies Jewelry	New Balance	Sky Lounge	Wenger
Cristalida	Beachwear	La Boutique	NoBush	Taste of Belgium	Zissles
Del Sol	Havana Nines	La Creperie de Paseo	Pandora Boutique	Taste of Heaven	
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Cuba hopes for higher output in sugar harvest

HAVANA (AFP) - Cuba on Thursday began its annual sugar harvest hoping that recent reforms will increase output for an industry that was once a showpiece of the communist government's economy.

The biggest change was President Raul Castro's abolishment of the Ministry of Sugar, which was replaced with a state-run holding company named Azcuba.

Last year Cuba produced 1.4 million tons of sugar -- far below the output of the 1980s of around eight million tons, when the former Soviet Union paid inflated prices for Cuba's sugar.

"The country is prepared for a superior and more efficient zafrá," said Vice President Jose Ramon Machado, using the local word for the sugar cane harvest, as he visited a sugar processing plant Thursday in the eastern city of Guantánamo.

Azcuba president Orlando

Celso Garcia told state media that he saw "exceptional short-term conditions" that would allow a production of between three and four million tons of sugar this season.

Sugar used to be Cuba's

main export, but it has dropped behind nickel, medicine and biotechnology, and tobacco. Cuba's main sources of foreign currency are medical services and tourism.

YESTERDAY'S Crossword Answer

W	E	L	D	V	C	R	F	E	L	L
O	L	O	R	I	L	A	O	B	O	E
E	M	M	Y	L	O	U	H	A	R	R
				E	L	L	E	I	R	O
T	I	A	R	A				U	T	E
O	R	R		M	E	R	L		S	H
L	I	N	D	A	R	O	N	S	T	A
A	S	O	R		S	E	A	T		V
				A	F	T			A	R
A	D	A	G	E		A	F	R	O	
D	I	O	N	N	E	W	A	R	W	I
A	C	N	E		E	R	R		E	R
M	E	E	T		G	Y	M		R	A

Balashi Chill now also available in cans



On February 13 of this year the Aruban market was introduced to our second national beer, the Balashi Chill!

Balashi Chill took off in leaps and bounds on the local market. In a relatively short time this new beer created

many new fans who enjoy the delightful taste of this new beer.

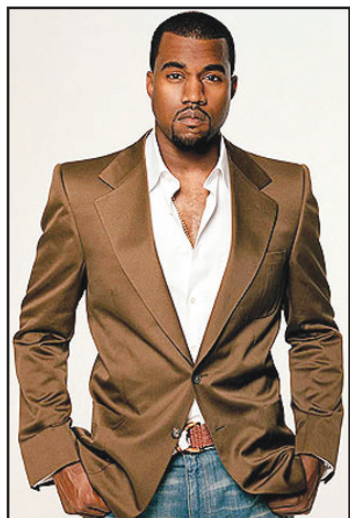
Balashi Chill has grown rapidly primarily because of its cool taste on this warm Caribbean island. Locals and tourists alike are enamored with the Balashi Chill beer.

Tropical Bottling Co. and Brouwerij Nacional Balashi N.V. are proud of the success of the Balashi Chill.

Thus far, Balashi Chill was available only in glass bottles. However, as of Wednesday November 30th, Balashi Chill is also available in 12oz cans. This makes it possible now for this delightful beer to be obtained at any event, for example, at Carnival, public festivities, concerts and at sport events.

The cans are designed in the white, blue and yellow colors that everyone associates with the Balashi Chill. Producing Balashi Chill in cans is another way to provide Aruba with the opportunity to enjoy a most delightful beer at any event, wherever they are. Well, get out and get yourself a Balashi Chill ...now in the can!

Kanye West, Adele lead Grammy nods



LOS ANGELES (AFP) - US rapper Kanye West has won the most nominations for next year's Grammys, followed closely by British singer Adele, continuing her awards success despite recent health woes.

West was nominated in seven categories for the music industry's top awards, to be given out February 12, while Adele got six nods -- including three of the key categories -- as did Foo Fighters and Bruno Mars.

Lady Gaga was arguably the star of the nominations show at the Nokia Theatre in Los Angeles, opening and closing the hour-long concert even though she is only nominated in three categories for the 54th annual Grammy Awards.

But the substance of the evening was the nominations, which can make careers and

add a lucrative boost to any artist or record.

Adele's "Rolling in the Deep" was tipped for Record of the Year, along with Bon Iver's "Holocene," Hawaiian crooner Bruno Mars's "Grenade," "The Cave" by British folk rockers Mumford and Sons, and Katy Perry's "Firework."

The London songstress's album "21" also led the nods for Album of the Year, and will fight it out with the Foo Fighters' "Wasting Light," Lady Gaga's "Born this Way," Bruno Mars's "Doo Wops and Hooligans" and Rihanna's "Loud."

Kanye West's seven nods include "All of the Lights" for Song of the Year, up against Mumford and Sons' "The Cave," Mars's "Grenade," Adele's "Rolling in the Deep" and Bon Iver's "Holocene."

Although West garnered the most nods, mainly in rap categories, he could come away disappointed. Last year Eminem topped the nominations with 10 nods but went home with only two gongs.

In the running for Best New Artist -- the category Adele won in 2009 -- are The Band Perry, Bon Iver, J. Cole, rapper Nicki Minaj and Skrillex -- the latter was shortlisted for five awards, as was Lil Wayne.

Adele has continued to attract awards nods and gongs despite being dogged by

throat problems which in October forced her to cancel all engagements for the rest of the year and to undergo surgery.

"We're in love with Adele," said the Band Perry's leader singer Kimberly Perry, while Grammy-nominated Canadian R and B singer Melanie Fiona added: "She's just completely rooted in the music."


Mick Jagger and Bob Dylan were among the biggest stars at last year's Grammys show -- and the US Recording Academy's boss Neil Portnow hinted that acts this year could include heavy metal veterans Van Halen.

The big winners at the 53rd Grammys were US country trio Lady Antebellum, and country music remains a strong current in this year's nominations, as well as Wednesday's show.

"I have a brand new respect for Lady Gaga," Grandmaster Flash -- aka Barbados-born Joseph Saddler -- said, adding that he didn't believe it when told Gaga was going to close the show with the country duo.

"She was amazing tonight," he said.

Grammys organizers this year cut the number of categories in the awards show from 109 to 78, the first restructuring since the music industry's top prizes were first handed out in 1959.




MAGIC

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at the WESTIN RESORT, Aruba



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SHOWTIME: 9PM NIGHTLY

STARRING: Adam Steinfeld

WHAT: Comedy Magic, Grand Illusion show.

LOCATION: Westin Resort & Casino Aruba

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BOX OFFICE OPENS: 8:00PM

COST: \$20 (under 15), \$40 adult / LOCALS: Afl. 40

TICKETS: at the theater door

GROUP SALES: (297) 561-1090

WestinAruba.com/magic

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Gold Coast Aruba: Great savings for large families on holiday rentals



Aruba's newest and most innovative gated community has enjoyed steady sales since breaking ground, as many are finding the secure surroundings and outstanding amenities are just what they were looking for before considering purchasing property on the island. Some owners are using the villas or town homes as vacation retreats rather than full time and are taking advantage of Gold Coast's rental services to turn their investment into ready income.

"The greater portion of home owners are using their 'home away from home' in Aruba to escape the winter months, or spend holidays with the family on the island," noted Gold Coast developer Fito Croes. To assist in the demand for more complete facilities for groups and families, famed hotelier Ed Malone has been placed in charge of the rental program.

Staying at Gold Coast is a very attractive proposition for those traveling with groups that would require multiple hotel rooms. Two and three bedroom Villas or Town Homes accommodate large numbers and offer extensive amenities along with a final cost resulting in considerable savings. The community is minutes to the best beaches and all the casino action, and offers a quiet and secluded getaway with two swimming pools and specialized services with more on the way, such as a fitness room, tennis courts and mini-mall. Ed can arrange maid service, babysitters, caterers, airline

pick-up and drop-off; they even boast a shopping service to stock your shelves before arrival.

Gold Coast accommodations are elegant and spacious, offering privacy for

high-speed fiber-optic Internet connection, individual washer/dryer, and are fully air-conditioned. Cribs, high chairs and hair dryers are available for a modest fee. Concierge services to arrange



parents or a few couples. Beautifully appointed kitchens and bathrooms grace each abode; barbecues and lounges are provided for friendly cookouts and truly savoring the island life. All homes come with cable TV,

rental cars, spa appointments, activities and restaurant reservations are all part of the package.

Check-in for your holiday escape is conducted in the comfort of your vacation home, not while waiting on line at check-in desk. In every way, Gold Coast seeks to pamper their guests while providing them with the feeling of being in a cozy community, not the normally bustling resort, particularly experienced during the major holidays. If you wish an optimal vacation experience with great savings, visit their website: www.goldcoastaruba.com to get acquainted with the community and the layout, details and availability of accommodations, or call 586-2200 to talk personally to a Gold Coast representative.



Adorable and affordable; 5 Burgers Aruba offers an island twist to the great American Burger

Expatriates residing on Aruba, Aaron and Rosie Walisever are living their dream: a home on paradise while welcoming all and sundry to their proud undertaking, 5 Burgers Aruba. Some may be quite well acquainted with a nationally known U.S. franchise bearing the name "5", and patrons can expect the same great quality between the buns, but an expanded menu and Rosie and Aaron's fanatical dedication to giving their customers what



Rosie and Aaron love their burger too



Gouda Burger 2

they really want has resulted in a unique menu.

"You never get a second chance to make a first impression," comments Aaron; and upon entering 5 Burgers Aruba in The Village Mall in Palm Beach, one is struck by utterly spotless surroundings and a smiling, friendly, attentive service crew. Of course, the main item on the menu is burgers-the way they were meant to be, thick and juicy, made fresh daily and 100% pure beef, the kind that made the hamburger a traditional American treat.

Prices vary only slightly between regular and small (basically 2 patties or 1) with specialty items such as Gouda Burger, Farmer's Burger, Man Burger (almost 12 ounces of choice beef), and a Western Burger with crispy onion rings and BBQ sauce. All of these can be personalized with an incredible array of toppings, (mushrooms, jalapeño peppers, bacon, cheese, lettuce, tomato...whatever the list goes on) at absolutely no extra cost.

5 Burger portions are ENORMOUS! Aaron suggests that even their small serving of fries, which are

made from hand-cut fresh Idaho potatoes, is enough to be shared by two. He was very amused to watch a famous French chef demonstrating the best way to make fried potatoes on a gourmet cooking show and could only comment "He stole my recipe!" Try them the English way-with vinegar, and you'll wonder how you ever ate fries without it. This same 5-star chef also swears by Gouda as the best topping for the ideal gourmet cheeseburger.

If you are a fan of crispy friend onion rings, as we are at THE MORNING NEWS, you cannot leave there without trying their secret recipe batter-dipped gourmet rings, made from fresh, not frozen onions. Unquestionably, the best we have had anywhere, and for those that like a little spice, the fried jalapeños are a real treat. Aaron and Rosie have expanded their menu to accommodate certain tastes and dietary needs; they offer a tasty grilled chicken sandwich as well.

5 Burgers Aruba is open for lunch & dinner - daily hours are Noon to 10-ish; delivery is available to both the high-rise and low-rise hotel and beach district for orders over \$50. Enjoy a great lunch without ever leaving the beach by calling 586-3904. However, we suggest you stop by and enjoy their authentic, heartfelt hospitality; it is not unusual for either owner or Manager Marc Anthony when things are not too busy, to sit and chat while sharing their knowledge of the island. Totally yummy and fun plus a great deal for a quality burger, they are definitely worth a visit

SPORT

Golf: McIlroy shares lead at Hong Kong Open



Northern Ireland's Rory McIlroy

HONG KONG (AFP) - World number two Rory McIlroy was the joint leader after the first round of the \$2.75 million UBS Hong Kong Open Thursday where the Northern Irishman shot an impressive six-under-par 64.

The US Open champion was joined by Alvaro Quiros and David Horsey after the Spaniard Quiros chipped in on

the 18th and the English golfer hit a stunning approach to leave himself a tap-in as the light began to fade.

McIlroy went out early in the morning and tamed the blustery conditions at the Hong Kong Golf Club with a bogey-free round in what he described as his best-ever over the course.

"It's my best here for sure," said the 22-year-old. "I handled the wind pretty well today and I think I have shot a 63 here once but this was better than that given the conditions."

McIlroy, who was a runner-up in Hong Kong in 2008 and 2009 was quick to keep his feet on the ground however.

"There's still a long way to go in this tournament," he said. "I've led a lot of tournaments from the first day, and I've won a couple of them, but I realize more than anyone, there is a long way to go - 54 holes. I'll have to play very, very well to pick up this trophy."

Two birdies on his first

nine and four on the back did it for McIlroy, who played in a group that included reigning Hong Kong champion Ian Poulter, who struggled on the greens on his way to a plus-one 71.

The Englishman couldn't buy a putt all round and left vowing to put in the hours on the practice green in the afternoon.

"I'm obviously disappointed, the wind was tricky and I played nicely but didn't hole a putt out there," said Poulter. "I've got work to do tomorrow and this golf course will play tougher as it goes."

Quiros, known for his long drives, had his short game to thank for joining McIlroy at the top of the leaderboard, while Horsey's nine-iron to within two feet on the last left him with a simple birdie putt for a share of the lead.

Quiros, 28, recovered from an errant approach shot on the par four last with a chip-in for birdie.

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Football: Qatar desperate for World Cup breakthrough

DOHA (AFP) - Gas-rich but success-starved Qatar believe they can build a football team good enough to qualify for a first World Cup before they controversially stage the tournament's 2022 edition.

The tiny Gulf state came close to reaching the 1998 global showpiece, but were denied by neighbours Saudi Arabia on an agonising final day of qualifying.

The country then suffered a series of familiar failures until they hit the jackpot when FIFA sensationally awarded them the 2022 finals, where they will be certain of featuring as hosts.

"The aim is to participate at a World Cup before 2022," said Sheikh Hamad bin Khalifa bin Ahmad Al-Thani, the president of the Qatar Football Association.

That may be easier said than done for a country which will spend billions of dollars on building air-conditioned stadia to combat the dangers of playing in summer temperatures which can climb to a boiling 50 degrees.

At the moment, Qatar's national team stands at 95 in the FIFA rankings, sandwiched between Lithuania and Botswana, but are hopeful of making the final round of Asian qualifying for the 2014 finals.

"The fact that one of their clubs, Al Sadd, has just won the Asian Champions League has created a lot of confidence. The national team also believes that they can do it."

Football in Qatar continues to be dominated by highly-paid foreign talent.

A Brazilian, Sebastiao

Lazaroni handles the national team while 14 of the country's 15 first division clubs are coached by foreigners.

Furthermore, former Italy coach Marcello Lippi, a World Cup winner, and ex-Spanish boss Luis Aragones have both headed-up lucrative coaching clinics in the country.

Frenchman Djamel Belmadi, the coach of league champions Lekhwiya, first arrived in the Gulf state as a player in 2003.

He believes that the game in the country has improved dramatically in that period.

"Al Sadd are Asian champions but they are only in mid-table in the Qatari championship. That's a sign of its strength and quality," he said.

Qatar are also not afraid of bringing in foreign-born players.

In their last World Cup qualifier against Bahrain, Brazilian-born defender Marccone Amaral Costa was in the starting line-up while Uruguayan-born Sebastian Soria, a fellow naturalised Qatari, was on the bench.

Despite the money lavished on players and infrastructure, many league matches are watched by just a smattering of fans.

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Euro 2012: continued from page 16



Prompting booking rates to soar, the supply was very limited in November. Prices ranged from \$133 for a bed in a hostel dormitory and \$797 for a room in a four-star hotel in Kiev.

"We asked the hotel owners to set reasonable prices, but we have no means of influence," Lubkivski said.

Prominent TV football commentator Olexandr Glyvynsky -- who also acts as

spokesman for the national football team -- said he is particularly concerned by bad roads.

"My biggest worry is about fans coming by car. We have terribly few road signs, even fewer in Latin letters, no light and the roads are often covered with potholes. Europeans risk having a culture shock here."

But he added that while there were still organisational troubles "it's nothing comparing to those we used to have" before the stadiums were opened and there was still time to fix the remaining issues.

In Kiev, where a new airport terminal is to be inaugurated in June 2012, the authorities promised to intervene with the taxi companies whose drivers tend to exploit tourists.

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Child sex abuse cases tighten coaching scrutiny

WASHINGTON (AFP) - Two high-profile US child sex abuse cases involving college assistant coaches have sparked calls for more background checks and tighter scrutiny on adults working with youth in sports.

Former Penn State University assistant American football coach Jerry Sandusky faces charges of sex abuse with eight boys over a 15-year period -- one witness telling a grand jury he saw Sandusky rape a 10-year-old boy in a shower.

Only a few weeks later, Syracuse University assistant basketball coach Bernie Fine

was fired after allegations of child molestation surfaced involving claims by three men.

Child advocacy groups want more background checks on coaches and volunteers, more training on sex abuse awareness and prevention, at least two adults with children at all times and written policy on youth and coach interaction, steps similar to those taken after scandals in the Catholic Church and Boy Scouts of America.

In an editorial, the Patriot Ledger newspaper of Quincy, Massachusetts, said the scandals "must lead all youth sports organizations to take a closer look at how better to protect young and vulnerable athletes who often revere the men to whom their growth and safety has been entrusted." The latest scandals hit US sport

teams beloved by millions but are far from the first involving coaches.

Protect Youth Sports, a group that helps screen staff and volunteers, said on its website that lessons must be learned.

"Every organization that works with children needs to look at what happened and do some self-evaluation of their current sexual abuse prevention strategy," the group said, stressing a need to encourage abused youth to speak out.

US lawmakers will examine federal child abuse laws in a December 13 Senate hearing.

"No child should ever be subjected to sexual abuse," Senator Barbara Mikulski said. "And no adult should ever turn a blind eye to such abuse."

Mclroy shares.... continued from page 14

It was the second chip-in of the day for Quiros - after he had performed the same trick for an eagle on the par-five 12th.

"In the end we have been lucky twice," he said. "Because we took a look at the compass in the yardage book and we were right. So I think you have to be lucky to shoot low under these conditions, under these windy conditions."

Horse, 26, said: "I've been hitting the ball nicely but scores have not been quite coming in so hopefully that can change."

Also squarely in contention after day one was double Hong Kong Open winner Miguel Angel Jimenez.

The 47-year-old Spaniard, who lifted the title in 2004 and 2007, shot a five-under-par 65, one shot behind the leaders.

"With this sort of wind it was very difficult, Jimenez

said. "In the afternoon the gusty wind was hard but I am very pleased. Five-under par is good anywhere that you play."

There was little joy however for world number 17 Justin Rose in what is his first visit to the Hong Kong event, which is co-sanctioned by both the European and Asian Tours and acts as the penultimate date on the calendars of both.

A double bogey six on the eighth hole seemed to dampen his spirits and he never really recovered on his way to a four-over 74 that has left the Englishman with a lot of work to do.

"I got on the wrong side of a lot of pins and I thought I made a lot of wrong decisions today," said the 31-year-old. "Getting off to a bad start made it a long hard day."

One group failed to finish their round because of bad light.

Fundraising Fencing tournament at Itn'l School of Aruba rescheduled to Dec. 11th



At the International School of Aruba (ISA) a special training was given by certified trainer of the International Federation of Fencing (FID), Rudolf De Kort.

During this 5-week long training/introduction, the sport of Fencing was introduced to the school. The youngsters learned about the sport of Fencing, its techniques and basic strategies to practice the sport in a secure and safe manner.

Fencing, is a family of combat sports using bladed weapons. Fencing is also featured at the Olympic Games.

Trainer de Kort was very satisfied with the outcome, the interest and enthusiasm among the students for the sport was great.

To be able to continue practicing this sport the International School of Aruba in cooperation with SV La Fama Musketeers are organising a fundraising tournament on Sunday, December 11, among the students of ISA and SV La Fama Musketeers.

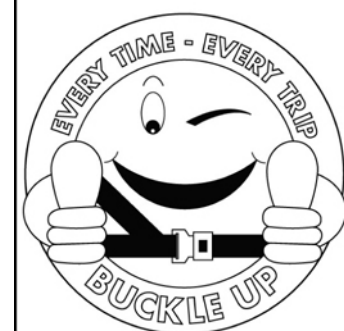
All funds will go towards acquiring the much needed

Fencing gear and equipment needed to practice this beautiful sport.

In the afternoon there will be an Adult Open Class competition.

The action kicks off from 9:30am at the International School of Aruba!

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Football: Ronaldo confirmed as World Cup ambassador



Brazilian former football star Ronaldo Nazario speaks during a press conference to announce his incorporation to the Brazil 2014 FIFA World Cup organizing committee.

RIO DE JANEIRO (AFP) - Global football icon Ronaldo was on Thursday officially unveiled as the ambassador for the organising committee of the 2014 World Cup, to be hosted by his native Brazil.

Ricardo Teixeira, the president of the Brazilian Football Confederation (CBF) and the WC2014 organising committee, said it was now time for the whole country to get behind what he hopes will be the "best ever World Cup" in history.

"As of now, we want everyone to get behind this project to help create the best ever World Cup and that is why we

have called on the athlete who best symbolises the cream of Brazilian sport," Teixeira told reporters.

Ronaldo, a two-time Ballon d'Or winner, said he was proud to take up a role which, in the past, has been performed by Michel Platini of France and Germany's Franz Beckenbauer, ahead of the 1998 and 2006 World Cups respectively.

"I'm really proud and will give my best to help create the best World Cup there has ever been," said Ronaldo, a three-time FIFA World Player of the Year whose goalscoring genius led Brazil to the 2002 World Cup title.

The 34-year-old, whose full name is Ronaldo Nazario de Lima, is widely regarded as one of the best strikers of his generation.

He brought his storied but injury-hit career to an end in February, when he also announced he had been suffering from a thyroid problem that made it difficult to control his weight.

While in Europe he played for PSV Eindhoven, Barcelona, Real Madrid, Inter Milan and AC Milan, as well as Cruzeiro and Corinthians in Brazil.

During his career Ronaldo notably won two World Cup trophies, in 1994 and 2002, and was twice voted the Ballon d'Or winner, in 1997 and 2002.

Euro 2012: Ukraine under fire for poor preparations

KIEV (AFP) - Ukraine has finally opened all the stadiums that will host Euro 2012 matches but there remain fears that the biggest event the country has hosted since independence will be mired in organisational problems.

After repeated delays Ukraine in the last weeks

opened a reconstructed stadium in the capital Kiev for the football extravaganza and a completely new venue in Lviv to go with already ready facilities in Kharkiv and Donetsk.

But hotel rooms will be insufficient in one city, transport issues yet to be resolved and

Kiev hoteliers are planning a massive price hike during the championships which Ukraine is co-hosting with Poland.

On top of the housing and transportation problems, the first events at the stadiums in Kiev, which will host the final on July 1, and Lviv were mired in organisational glitches.

After three years of reconstruction, the first game at the 70,000 seat Kiev Olympic Stadium on November 11 was marred by incidents due to malfunctioning infrastructure.

Thousands of fans forced their way into the stadium as several turnstiles in the entrance were closed for an unknown reason. Some climbed the two-metre-high fence, others broke metal doors to enter, witnesses said.

"Thank God, there were no casualties," Olexiy Mochanov, a TV presenter, said on his blog blaming the authorities' "idiocy" and poor organisation. "I will never go to this stadium again."

In Lviv, fans were forced to walk three kilometres (miles) from the nearest bus station to get into the 33,000 seat arena built in the city's outskirts.

"The organisation of the first matches was carefully analysed. All issues will be resolved as quickly as possible," the head of the UEFA-funded local organising committee, Markian Lubkivski, told a press conference.

The stadium in Kharkiv has been operational since 2009, as has the ultra-modern venue in Donetsk which has benefited from the support of the local

tycoon and Shakhter Donetsk owner Rinat Akhmetov.

But Donetsk even lacks hotel rooms to accommodate UEFA's own official delegations -- there were only 2,700 available in October while UEFA demanded 5,500.

"In all likelihood, there will be a need to organise charter flights from Kiev and Dnepropetrovsk for those who wish to attend matches in Donetsk," Lubkivski said. The room situation for fans there remains unclear.

The three other host cities are better set to receive tourists during the tournament on June 8 -- July 1, but prices may shock visitors as rates for hotel rooms and apartments for rent are expected to double or even triple.

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